

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 PM-03 FEA-01 L-02

TRSE-00 EB-02 COME-00 SCI-03 DODE-00 SP-01 OMB-01

CIEP-01 PRS-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 /054 W

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R 241636Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2012

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 3006

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, LI, US

SUBJECT: SUNOCO TO END ITS PARTICIPATION IN REFINERY

REF: (A) STATE 074266; (B) MONROVIA 2168; (C) STATE 077979

1. SUNOCO PRESIDENT MARION D. (ZEKE) NOBLE; SUNOCO V.P. FOR MANUFACTURING, SUPPLY AND MARKETING DONALD T. JONES; DYNALECTRON CORP. PRESIDENT CHARLES G. GULLEDGE; DYNALECTRON V.P. AND GENERAL COUNSEL JOHN P. SCHELLING; AND LIBERIA REFINING CO. (LRC) MANAGING DIRECTOR JAMES REEVES CALLED ON ME MAY 21 TO DISCUSS PLANNED SELL-OUT BY SUNOCO AND DYNALECTRON OF LRC.

2. SUNOCO-DYNALECTRON-LRC DELEGATION CALLED ON PRESIDENT TOLBERT MAY 20 AND PRESENTED SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT AND MORE PALATABLE PROPOSAL THAN THAT DESCRIBED REF A. GROUP THANKED PRESIDENT AND GOL FOR ITS SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS OBTAIN CRUDE SUPPLY FROM SAUDI ARABIA DURING RECENT CRISIS. HOWEVER, POINTED OUT THAT SUNOCO NOT A MAJOR CRUDE SUPPLIER AND FELT NEED FIND PARTNER RPT PARTNER FOR LRC. SUGGESTED IT FELT BEST POSSIBILITIES ARE NATIONAL OIL COMPANIES
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SAUDI ARABIA, IRAN, KUWAIT, OR MAJOR MULTINATIONALS.

FYI: THIS IN NO WAY CHANGES SUNOCO DECISION ULTIMATELY
SELL LRC, BUT IS MAJOR IMPROVEMENT IN IMMEDIATE
PRESENTATION. END FYI.

3. PRESIDENT TOLBERT RECEIVED DELEGATION GRACIOUSLY,
EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING THEIR POINT OF VIEW, THANKED THEM
FOR INFORMING GOL FIRST, AND ASKED THAT WHEN PROPOSALS
AVAILABLE HE BE INFORMED. PRESIDENT ALSO THANKED GROUP
FOR BRINGING MATTER TO HIM FIRST OF ALL, AND SUGGESTED
THAT THEY ALSO INFORM MINISTER OF FINANCE STEPHEN TOLBERT.

4. REEVES INFORMED EMB SUBSEQUENTLY THAT MINISTER FINANCE
UNABLE SEE DELEGATION MAY 22 (DESPITE PRIOR APPOINTMENT)
SINCE HE QTE TOO BUSY UNQTE. ALL BUT SCHILLING DEPARTED
THAT DAY.

5. REEVES ADVISED EMB MAY 24 THAT HE AND SCHILLING HAD
PRESENTED CASE MAY 23 TO MINISTER TOLBERT WHO HAD NO
COMMENT OTHER THAN TO EXPRESS INTEREST AND ASK THAT WHEN
CONCRETE PROPOSALS MADE HE BE FURNISHED THEM IN WRITING.

6. I FEEL THAT SUNOCO/DYNALECTRON PROPOSAL MUCH BETTER
THAN THAT PRESENTED REF A. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWAL
WOULD HAVE BEEN TRAUMATIC. SUGGESTION OF NEED FOR QTE
PARTNER UNQTE, EVEN IF THIS SHOULD LATER LEAD TO SALE IN
ENTIRETY TO MULTINATIONAL, MULTINATIONAL AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENT
COMPANY, OR JOINT VENTURE GOL WITH EITHER OR BOTH, MUCH
MORE ACCEPTABLE.
MANFULL

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